

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /131 W

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0980

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TAGS: MTN, ETRD

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCT CONSULTATION-JAMAICA

REF: STATE 276773

1. CONSULTATIONS HELD DEC 22 WITH JAMAICAN MTN DEL (BARNETT) ON THEIR TROPICAL PRODUCTS (TP) REQUEST LIST. USDEL DETAILED THREE CATEGORIES OF US REACTION, EXPLAINED US VIEWS ON LDC CONTRIBUTIONS TO TP PACKAGE, AND COMMENTED ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS DRAWING ON REFTEL. USDEL NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE NO CATEGORY 1 PRODUCTS ON JAMAICAN TP REQUEST LIST.

2. PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS BY JAMAICAN DEL CONCERNED RECIPROCITY
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AND POSSIBLE LDC CONTRIBUTIONS. NOTED IT WOULD BE VERY

DIFFICULT FOR JAMAICA TO GIVE SPECIFIC CONCESSIONS IN "CLASSICAL SENSE" GIVEN SEVERE BOP PROBLEMS CAUSED BY INCREASED PRICE OF OIL AND HIGH RATE UNEMPLOYMENT. ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS CODE OR OTHER SUCH MEASURES WAS POSSIBILITY, BUT SOLIDARITY ON "NON-RECIPROCITY" WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD BE COMPLICATING FACTOR. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. COULD US CONSIDER BOUND PREFERENTIAL RATES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DID US, KN TURN, REQUIRE THAT LDC RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS BE "GLOBALIZED", I.E. MRN, WHICH WOULD BE MUCH MORE COSTLY TO LDC'S?

B. DOES US REQUIRE CONCESSIONS IN CONTEXT OF TP GROUP? LDC'S CURRENT POSITION IS TO DECIDE UPON CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED AND "NET" BENEFITS TO LDC'S CAN BE ASSESSED.

C. WILL US SUGGEST WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS ARE EXPECTED FROM LDC'S PARTICIPATING IN TP NEGOTIATIONS?

3. US MTN DEL REPLIED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. US DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY, AND DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE SEEKING IT, FOR PREFERENTIAL BOUND DUTIES FOR LDC'S. US WOULD EXPECT THAT ANY POSSIBLE TARIFF CONCESSION CONTRIBUTIONS TO A TP PACKAGE WOULD BE ON MFN BASIS, CONSISTENT WITH LDC'S TRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS.

B. US BELIEVES LDC CONTRIBUTIONS TO A TP PACKAGE WILL BE NECESSARY. SOME MEASURE OF BALANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED.

C. USDEL PROPOSES TO INDICATE IN NEXT ROUND OF BILATERALS STARTING AFTER JAN 15 AND PRIOR TO MARCH 1 PRESENTATION OF INITIAL OFFERS, BOTH THOS PRODUCTS WHICH IT IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE IN TP CONTEXT AND SPECIFIC LDC CONTRIBUTIONS THAT APPEAR APPROPRIATE.

4. PARALLELING DISCUSSIONS WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, (SEE MTN GENEVA 9365) JAMAICAN DEL MADE STRONG PICTH FOR REDUCING US DUTIES ON RUM WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT FOR JAMAICA AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN MTN. CITED ITC TESTIMONY OF WEST INDIES SPIRIT ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE IMPORTERS AND AMB EBERLE'S COMMENTS THAT RUM WOULD BE SUITABLE PRODUCT FOR MTN NEGOTIATIONS DURING APRIL 1974 TRADE CONSULTATION WITH CARICOM COUNTRIES IN BARBADOS. STATED OBJECTIVE WAS NOT PRIMARILY TO EXPAND LIMITED RUM SALES IN US MARKET BUT RATHER TO RAISE RETURN TO CARIBBEAN PRODUCERS THROUGH LOWER US TARIFFS. WHEN INFORMED OF IMPORT SENSITIVITY OF RUM GIVEN LARGE US PRODUCTION, JAMAICAN DEL ASKED IF TARIFF

REDUCTION COULD BE COMBINED WITH QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION
OR TARIFF RATE QUOTA. USDEL REPLIED US TRADE POLICY
SOUGHT AVOID USE OF SUCH DEVICES BUT WOULD REPORT JAMAICAN
INQUIRY.

5. JAMAICA DEL NOTED THAT IT WAS SOLE SUPPLIER OF
147.33, CITRUS FRUIT NSP (UGLI FRUIT), AND REQUESTED
THAT IT BE MOVED FROM CATEGORY 2 TO CATEGORY 1. USDEL
SAID IT WOULD FORWARD REQUEST TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES
FOR CONSIDERATION.

6. JAMAICA DEL ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN 452.80,
DISTILLED OR ESSENTIAL OILS, AND WILL SEEK IDENTIFY
SPECIFIC PRODUCTS OF INTEREST. WALKER

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